

Amendments to the Claims:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A data processing method, ~~for synchronizing the data records of a plurality of disparate databases, the method comprising: the steps of:~~

synchronizing data records of a plurality of disparate databases, wherein synchronizing comprises:

providing a status file ~~containing~~comprising data records reflecting ~~the~~ contents of data records existing in at least one of the disparate databases at ~~the~~a time of a prior synchronization;

comparing data records from at least one of a first and a second of the plurality of disparate databases to corresponding data records of the status file to determine whether data records of the plurality of disparate databasedatabases have changed or been deleted since the prior synchronization or whether there are new data records since the ~~earlier~~prior synchronization;

updating the first and second databases based on ~~the~~an outcome of the comparing step; and

updating the ~~status file so that its~~ data records of the status file to reflect the contents of the data records in the first and the second of the plurality of disparate databases after theythe disparate databases have been updated,

wherein the data records of the first and the second databases are without unique identification codes.

23. (Currently Amended) A data processing method, ~~for synchronizing the data records of a plurality of disparate databases, the method comprising: the steps of:~~

synchronizing data records of a plurality of disparate databases, wherein synchronizing comprises:

providing a status file containing data records reflecting ~~the~~ contents of data records existing in at least one of the disparate databases at ~~at~~the time of a prior synchronization;

comparing data records from at least one of a first and a second of the plurality of disparate databases to corresponding data records of the status file to determine whether data records of the plurality of disparate databasedatabases have changed or been deleted since the prior synchronization or whether there are new data records since the ~~earlier~~prior synchronization;

updating the first and second databases based on ~~the~~an outcome of the comparing step;
and

updating the ~~status file so that its data records~~ of the status file to reflect the contents of the data records in the first and the second of the plurality of disparate databases after ~~they~~the disparate databases have been updated,

wherein at least the data records of the first database are identified by unique identification codes.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 or 23 wherein the correspondence between data records of the first and second databases is achieved by comparing key fields of the databases.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein data records of the status file are identified by the unique identification code of the first database.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, 23, or 25 wherein the comparing step further comprises deciding whether to delete a data record from the first database based on the comparing step having determined that ~~the~~a corresponding record of the second database has been deleted since the ~~prior~~earlier synchronization.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the comparing step further comprises deciding whether to delete a data record from the first database based on the comparing step having determined that ~~the~~a corresponding record of the second database has been deleted since the ~~earlier~~prior synchronization.

28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first of the plurality of disparate databases comprises at least one of a first data structure, a first application software, or a first computer program that is different from a second data structure, a second application software, or a second computer program of the second of the plurality of disparate databases.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the first of the plurality of disparate databases comprises at least one of a first data structure, a first application software, or a first computer program that is different from a second data structure, a second application software, or a second computer program of the second of the plurality of disparate databases.

30. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the prior synchronization occurs between the at least one of the first and the second of the plurality of databases.

31. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the prior synchronization occurs between the at least one of the first and the second of the plurality of databases.